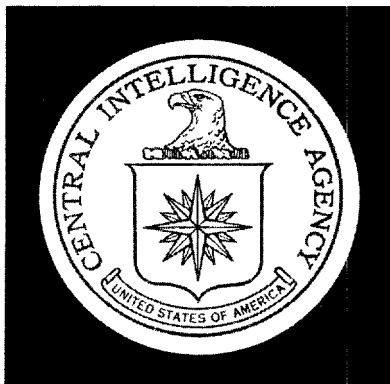


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Syria-Israel: Damascus appears to be planning new terrorism against the Israelis and also may try to promote guerrilla activities.

Members of the Baathist regime in Damascus are said to be talking in terms of a war along Viet Cong lines. Some reports of such planning may only reflect Syria's opposition to any accommodation with Israel. The Syrians, as leading exponents--together with Algeria's Boumediene--of a "continuation of the struggle," also may have inspired the reports for propaganda purposes.

There is some evidence, however, that steps have been taken to implement the threat, and that Palestinian terrorist groups which operated against Israel before the war may spearhead such a campaign. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The Israelis believe that the "continuation of the struggle" might include the organization of a Palestinian underground movement in the occupied areas.

Preparations for a resumption of direct hostilities between Syrian and Israeli forces along the cease-fire line have also been reported. Syrian civilians in villages near the line allegedly have been evacuated, and Syrian junior officers are said to have stated that they expect to move this week.

There is no reliable evidence that Syria intends to resume fighting along the cease-fire line. Such a development seems improbable, even though Syrian forces survived the war in better shape than those of Egypt and Jordan.

The Israelis remain capable of handling any military action the Syrians can mount. [REDACTED]

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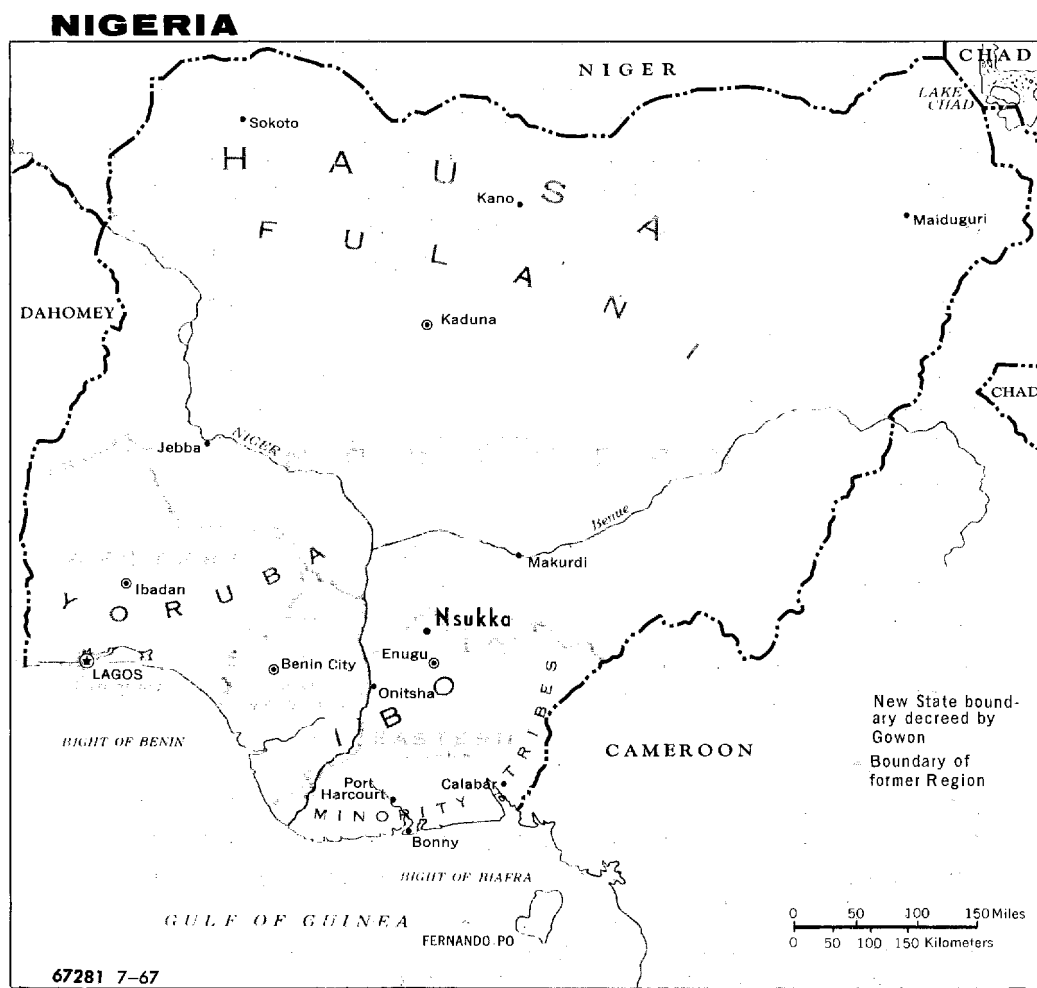
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Nigeria: Lagos' upcoming amphibious landing on the Biafran coast may meet with little significant opposition.

Biafran Governor Ojukwu has scoffed at the federal government's capability to mount such an operation, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The Nigerian Navy, including the destroyer escort plus two ships carrying possibly two battalions, left Lagos on 23 and 24 July. It is not yet known whether the group will proceed directly to Biafra.

The minority tribes in the probable landing areas are likely to lend some assistance to the federal invasion force, once it is ashore and established. The Biafrans have had to maintain strong security measures in the target areas but are believed to have moved sizable army contingents north to the Nsukka area.

The Biafran Navy may have just been augmented by a French-built 100-foot patrol boat. The Biafrans, however, are unlikely to be able to provide more than token opposition to a federal amphibious landing.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Map)

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Rumania: Party chief Ceausescu's speech yesterday developed no new positions in the dispute with the Soviet Union.

The Rumanians had been seeking to attract attendance by Western journalists at the opening session of Parliament by dropping hints that a good story would develop. The regime took the unprecedented step of permitting a correspondent for Radio Free Europe (RFE) to attend, probably hoping to ensure publicity about the session in other Eastern European countries. Prior to the parliamentary meeting, Moscow, Warsaw, and Budapest all had indirectly criticized Rumania's policies as disruptive.

In his speech, Ceausescu indicated that he strongly reaffirmed the independent aspects of his foreign policy. He again called for disbanding the Warsaw Pact and NATO, and reiterated his disagreement with recent Soviet policy toward the Middle East. Ceausescu's formally fraternal remarks about relations with Moscow were balanced by similar expressions regarding Peking. His statements on relations with the United States were notably mild. [REDACTED]

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